

Syllabus of 9-7-16. It is subject to change w/o notice! Please *always* check the on-line version (Sakai) rather than downloading any particular version

Capstone in PPE

Prof. M. Munger, Gross 217 (munger@duke.edu)

Phil 465/PolSci 449/Econ 389

Fall 2016

W 4:40 —7:10 p.m.

**Classroom: Languages 211 (Duke)/
Murphey 115 (UNC)**

Instructor Web Site:

<https://michaelmunger.com>

Office Hours:

- **Monday 1:00 – 2:00 pm**
- **Immediately before class W 3:30 – 4:30 pm**

Teaching Assistant: Haohan Chen (haohan.chen@duke.edu)

Notice about class format: For the first half of the semester (until and including the Oct 12 class), the class meets at Duke; after October (beginning with the Oct 19 class) the class meets at UNC. Since attendance is mandatory, this means that you must be able to be physically present at the class location. One way to do this is the bus system, but Uber also works. It is your responsibility to find a way to attend class.

Trigger Warning: The explicit purpose of this class is to consider the *best* arguments *for*, and *against*, some highly controversial claims. The debate portion of the class, in particular, exposes students to the risk of being required to argue points of view they may find personally repugnant. Further, a number of the classroom discussions are likely to transgress boundaries of what students find comfortable. If there are issues that make you uncomfortable and you find it difficult to encounter arguments you disagree with but cannot refute, you are not temperamentally suited for the PPE enterprise.

As J.S. Mill put it, in *On Liberty*: “*He who knows only his own side of the case, knows little of that. ...if he is equally unable to refute the reasons on the opposite side; if he does not so much as know what they are, he has no ground for preferring either opinion.*” (emphasis added)

1. So, **the warning**: All your lives you have been rewarded for twaddle, making arguments of the sort, “I feel that...”
2. No more. **No one cares what you feel**. PPE requires that you determine what you *think*, and why, and that you are able to express these thoughts coherently as arguments in your writing and debate presentations. If you “feel” about the subjects, you will “feel” unhappy with your grades. What you need to do is to know the best counter-arguments to your own position, and to be able to express them clearly, for the purpose of refuting them decisively, or as decisively as possible.
3. On the other hand, **there is no correct answer**. Any opinion, no matter how outlandish, will result in a good grade if you support it well and argue for it persuasively. We care about **reasons**. It may well be that some arguments are unsupportable, of course. But that is because there are no good reasons for it, not because you feel it is wrong.

If **any of the above** is a problem, you should drop this class. It is not for you. That doesn’t make you a bad person, but it does mean that this class is likely to be uncomfortable for you, and you should probably look elsewhere. Not everyone is interested in knowing the problems with their own positions, especially if some of those problematic counterarguments are unsettlingly close to being persuasive.

Overview: This course serves as the “capstone” experience for the PPE Program, and is open only to those who are completing the PPE or expect to do so.

- This is the senior "capstone" class for PPE. Only students who are filing to complete the Certificate are eligible to enroll. The class will meet for the first half of the semester at Duke, and at UNC-Chapel Hill for the second half of the semester.
- The capstone seminar is a chance to take some of the core concepts you’ve learned in previous PPE courses and apply them to specific topics. It is also an opportunity for you to write a concise research paper on a PPE-related topic of your choice. In the first part of the semester, we’ll discuss the readings below. In the second part, you will present work in progress and get feedback from your peers. Each student will be assigned a time slot to present a chunk of their research paper, or talk about a book chapter or article that is central to their paper.

Community Standard: _____As a member of the Duke and UNC community, you consent and pledge to adhere to the Duke Community Standard (see <http://www.integrity.duke.edu/faq/faq1.html>). For advice on how to cite sources and avoid plagiarism, see <http://library.duke.edu/research/plagiarism/index.html>. A personal note: I have zero qualms about pursuing plagiarism cases with every ounce of energy we possess. You *will* fail the course. You *will* be kicked out of school. With search engines, it’s easy to detect cheating. Look, if you found it on Google, we can find it on Google. Don’t be an idiot. “F: Plagiarism” is forever.

Grades: Grades will be based on...

10% Participation (attendance is mandatory; your physical presence is necessary—but not sufficient—to get credit for “participation!”)

20% Debate Presentation

30% Midterm exam (scheduled for Wednesday, October 26)

40% Final paper (due a week after the last day of class)

Debate Presentation: A general topic is given for most weeks, starting with September 14. Two people will be signed up for each (I will ask everyone to give preferences, and ties will be broken with a random number selector). The two “debaters” will be charged with coming up a “proposition” to be debated. On the day of class, a coin will be flipped and the roles (critic and proponent) will be assigned randomly. **That is, you will not know which side you will take until the moment of the debate begins.** Thus, it is important to agree on a proposition that actually has two interesting sides. And it is important that you know the arguments for and against. The format for the debate is as follows:

- (1) Proponent argues for the proposition (5 minutes)
- (2) Critic argues against the proposition (10 minutes)
- (3) Proponent rebuts the criticism (5 minutes)
- (4) Critic sums up (2 minutes)
- (5) Proponent sums up (2 minutes)
- (6) Audience questions (5 minutes)
- (7) Audience fills out evaluation form (1 minute)

TOTAL: 30 minutes

Resource: “Cambridge Union Society Introductory Guide to Debating,”

http://cambridgeschools.cus.org/cambridge_schools_bp_debating_guide_2013.pdf

Midterm: **The midterm will be given in class, on October 26.** The format will be a combination of 30 multiple choice questions, each of which will count 3 points, and an essay question on Bitcoin, which will count 10 points. **The midterm counts 30% of the overall grade.** If you cannot take the midterm on this date, tell us before class on Wednesday, October 5. No non-medical excuses will be accepted after that date.

Textbooks: The following books are available at respective Duke and UNC Bookstores. ISBNs are included so you can see if you can find used versions cheaper on-line. The third “textbook” is an online resource for games and quizzes called “MobLab.” More details on this resource will be given out before the first class.

<i>Author's Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Ed.</i>	<i>ISBN #</i>	<i>Publisher</i>
<i>Jonathan Anomaly, et al.</i>	<u>Oxford PPE Anthology</u>	1st	9780190207311	OXFORD UNIV
<i>M.C./K.M. Munger</i>	<u>Choosing in Groups</u>	1st	9781107699625	CAMBRIDGE UNIV
<i>MobLab</i>	<u>(Software)</u>		https://game.moblab.com/server/register.jsp	

Schedule of Meetings and Assignments:

[\(Skip Down to Outline of Outside Speakers and Podcasts\)](#)

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

Wednesday, August 31: Introduction and Overview

READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Hardin, Garrett**, "Tragedy of the Commons." *Science*, 162(1968): 1243-1248, (LINK: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/162/3859/1243>)
- **Harari, Yuval**, *Sapiens*. Chapters 1, 2, and 5. **Sakai Reading**
- **Hayek, Friedrich**, *Law, Liberty, and Legislation*. Chapter 11 ("The Discipline of Abstract Rules") and Epilogue ("The Three Sources of Human Values") **Sakai Reading**
- **Munger, M.** "Division of Labor," Entry in Concise Encyclopedia of Economics, On-Line Library of Liberty. (Edited by David Henderson).
<http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/DivOfLabor.html>
- **Video:** Francis Fukuyama (LINK: <https://youtu.be/33g-KJ3gkvs>)

Wednesday, September 7:

Political Authority

READINGS:

- Chapter 1 in Anomaly, et al, *PPE Anthology*, pp. 1-34.
- **Munger, M.** "Unicorn Governance." <https://fee.org/articles/unicorn-governance/>
- "Authority," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, (LINK: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/authority/>)

Wednesday, September 14: Property

READINGS:

- Chapter 4 in Anomaly, et al, *PPE Anthology*, pp. 1-34.
- "Property and Ownership," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, (LINK: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/property/>)
- **Hinman v. Pacific Air Transport**, 1936, 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals. (LINK: http://www.leagle.com/xmlResult.aspx?xmlDoc=193683984F2d755_1600.xml&docbase=CSLWAR1-1950-1985)
- **Jacques v. Steenberg Homes, Inc.**, 1997, Wisconsin. (LINK: <http://www.wicourts.gov/sc/opinion/DisplayDocument.pdf?content=pdf&seqNo=17010>)

Wednesday, September 21: Equality and Egalitarianism

READINGS:

- Chapter 8 in Anomaly, et al, *PPE Anthology*.
- "Egalitarianism," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, (LINK: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/egalitarianism/>)

Debate Presentation #1: Private Property

Wednesday, September 28: Collective Action and Government Failure

READINGS:

- Chapter 6 in Anomaly, et al, PPE Anthology, pp. 1-34.
- **Anomaly, J.** 2013. Collective Action and Individual Choice. Journal of Medical Ethics. (LINK: <http://philpapers.org/archive/ANOCOA.pdf>)
- **Anomaly, J.** 2012. Is Obesity a Public Health Problem? Public Health Ethics. (LINK: <http://philpapers.org/archive/ANOIOA.pdf>)
- **Keech, W. and M. Munger**, “The Anatomy of Government Failure,” Public Choice, 2015, Sakai Reading
- **Munger and Munger**, Chapters 1-2

Debate Presentation #2: Income Inequality

Wednesday, October 5: Exchange and Market Failure

READINGS:

- **Anomaly, J.** 2017. Ethics, Antibiotics, and Public Policy. Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy.
- **Anomaly, J.** 2015. Public Goods and Government Action. PPE Journal.
- **Cowen, T.** “Public Goods.” (LINK: <http://econlib.org/library/Enc/PublicGoods.html>)
- **Munger, MC.** “Market Failure and Government Failure.” In J. Brennan, et al., eds., Routledge Handbook of Libertarianism. (Projected Publication: May 2017)
- **Munger, M.C.** 2005. “Everybody Loves Mikey.” (LINK: <http://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/y2005/Mungerinvisiblehand.html>)
- **Munger and Munger**, Chapter 3.
- **Radford, RA.** Radford, R. A. 1945. “The Economics of a POW Camp,” Economica. (Sakai)

Debate Presentation #3: Socialism (State ownership of the means of production)

Debate Presentation #4: Regulation of Intellectual Property: Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights

Wednesday, October 12: Population Growth and Public Policy

READINGS:

- **Ehrlich, Paul.** The Population Bomb. Chapter 1. <http://staff.washington.edu/jhannah/geog270aut07/readings/population/Ehrlich%20-%20Population%20Bomb%20Ch1.pdf>
- **Fox, Justin. Bloomberg.** “Why the Population Bomb Bombed.” <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2015-06-01/why-paul-ehrlich-s-population-bomb-finally-bombed>
- **Lawson, Dominic.** “The population timebomb is a myth.” <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/commentators/dominic-lawson/dominic-lawson-the-population-timebomb-is-a-myth-2186968.html>
- **Malthus, Thomas.** An Essay on the Principle of Population. Preface and Chapters 1-5 <http://www.econlib.org/library/Malthus/malPop.html>
- Malthusian Theory of Population http://cgge.aag.org/PopulationandNaturalResources1e/CF_PopNatRes_Jan10/CF_PopNatRes_Jan108.html
- **Suzuki, David.** “Test Tube Model of Population.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8x98KFcMJeo>
- Wikipedia: “List of Countries by Population Growth Rate.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population_growth_rate

Debate Presentation #5: Population Control

CLASS VENUE SWITCHES FROM DUKE TO UNC!!!!

Wednesday, October 19: Utilitarianism, Cost-Benefit Analysis, and Coasian Bargaining

READINGS:

- **Munger-Munger**, Choosing in Groups, Chapter 7
- **Coase, Ronald (1960)**. "The Problem of Social Cost". Journal of Law and Economics 3: 1–44.
- **Munger, M.** "Kaldor-Hicks Coercion, Coasian Bargaining, and the State." In Jorge Martinez and Stanley Winer (eds.), Coercion and Social Welfare in Public Finance: Economic and Political Dimensions, Cambridge University Press. Pp. 117-135.
- Chapter 9 in Anomaly, et al, PPE Anthology.

Debate Presentation #6: Net Neutrality

Wednesday, October 26: MIDTERM: If you cannot make this date, let me know immediately!

Wednesday, November 2: Ignorance, Discovery, and Public Institutions

READINGS:

- Chapters 9-10 in Anomaly, et al, PPE Anthology.
- **Munger, M.** "Coercion, the State, and the Obligations of Citizenship." Public Choice. 152: 415-421
- **Munger, M.** "Blogging and Political Information: Truth or 'Truthiness'?" In The Power and Political Science of Blogs. Public Choice Special Issue. 134: 125-138.

Debate Presentation #7: Open Source Software

Debate Presentation #8: Bitcoin/AirBnB/Uber—Regulation of "Sharing Economy"

Wednesday, November 9: Anarchy

READINGS:

- **Augustine**, The City of God Against the Pagans. Book IV, Chapter 4.
- **Humboldt, W.** The Limits of State Action. 1854/LF Edition
<http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/humboldt-the-sphere-and-duties-of-government-1792-1854>
- **Munger, M.** "Unicorn Governance." <https://fee.org/articles/unicorn-governance/>
- "Political Obligation," Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy,
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/political-obligation/>
- **Rothbard, M.** The Anatomy of the State.
https://mises.org/system/tidf/Anatomy%20of%20the%20State_3.pdf?file=1&type=document

Debate Presentation #9: Anarchism I (Is the State inherently evil? Is taxation theft?)

Debate Presentation #10: Anarchism II (Is a "limited state" possible?)

Wednesday, November 16: Geo-Libertarianism and Basic Income

READINGS:

- **Michael Munger**, "Introduction," **Basic Income Symposium**. .
- **Alaska Permanent Fund**. N.d. "What Is the Alaska Permanent Fund?" <http://www.apfc.org/home/Content/aboutFund/aboutPermFund.cfm>
- **Foldvary, Fred**. "The Geo-Libertarian Ethics of Land Rent." Bleeding Heart Libertarians. <http://bleedingheartlibertarians.com/2012/04/the-geolibertarian-ethics-of-land-rent/>
- **George, Henry**. George, Henry (1879/1935). Progress and Poverty: An Inquiry into the Cause of Industrial Depressions and of Increase of Want with Increase of Wealth. Fiftieth Anniversary Edition, New York: Robert Schalkenbach Publishers. http://mises.org/books/progress_poverty_george.pdf
- **Holcombe, Randall G**. 2005. "Common Property in Anarcho-Capitalism." Journal of Libertarian Studies 19(2): 10.
- **Thomas Paine**, 1797. Agrarian Justice (1797) ((a) Agrarian Justice, (b) Means By Which The Fund Is To Be Created, (c) Means For Carrying The Proposed Plan Into Execution, And To Render It At The Same Time Conducive To The Public Interest) <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/Paine/contents.html>
- **Widerquist, Karl, and Michael W. Howard**. Exporting the Alaska Model: Adapting the Permanent Fund Dividend for Reform around the World. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.
- **Zwolinski, Matt**. 2014. "The Pragmatic Libertarian Case for a Basic Income Guarantee." Cato Unbound, August 4, 2014, <http://www.cato-unbound.org/2014/08/04/matt-zwolinski/pragmatic-libertarian-case-basic-income-guarantee>

Debate Presentation #11: Basic Income Guarantee

Debate Presentation #12: Worldwide Resource/Carbon Tax

No Class Wednesday November 23: Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, November 30: Final Class

Debate Presentation # 13: Policy Responses to Global Warming

Debate Presentation # 14: Pro-Choice/Pro-Life on Reproductive Rights

Debate Presentation # 15: Wild Card

Debate Presentation # 16: Wild Card

Wednesday, December 7: No Class, Final Papers Due in Dropbox in Sakai (UNC)

Wednesday, December 14: Final Papers Due in Dropbox in Sakai (Duke)